

The “AGAPE” #30

THE SEASON AFTER PENTECOST

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH, CALGARY AB

September 21, 2021 Anno Domini

Proclaiming the love of Jesus Christ in Bridgeland for 108 years!

A “BLOG-LIKE” NEWSLETTER FROM PASTOR ZEUCH

Hello dear SMLC Family!



How have you been?

You haven't had a new edition of the Agape for a while, I apologize for that! But here we are again – now celebrating God's blessings on the “Autumnal Equinox” (September 22) as we start a new season!

Today, as I write this newsletter, is the Feast of St. Matthew in Western Christianity, after whom we are named since 1960. Before we were “Jehovah Lutheran Church” (from 1913 to 1960).

The photo on the left was taken on November 10, 1956 and is considered public domain from the digital collections of the University of

Calgary. Matthew the Apostle, also known as **Saint Matthew** was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus.

He was also one of the four Evangelists as author of the Gospel of Matthew, and thus is also known as **Matthew the Evangelist**. Traditionally, the four Gospel writers have been represented by the following symbols:

- St. Matthew, a winged man or angel
- St. Mark, a winged lion;
- St. Luke, a winged ox; and
- St. John, a rising eagle.



These symbols are taken first from the Prophet Ezekiel (1:1-21). In the Book of Revelation (4:6-8), we find a similar description.

Surprisingly little is known about this important apostle and evangelist. He is mentioned only five times in the New Testament. Matthew 9:9 gives the account of his calling: "And when Jesus passed on from there, he saw a man sitting in the custom house, named Matthew; and he said to him: Follow me. And he rose up and followed him."

From this, we know that Saint Matthew was a tax collector in Capernaum, and Christian tradition has always identified him with **Levi**, mentioned in Mark 2:14 and Luke 5:27. Thus, Matthew is thought to have been the name that Christ gave Levi at his calling. He is considered patron of accountants, bankers, bookkeepers, customs officers, money managers, stockbrokers, tax collectors. Matthew focuses on showing his first Jewish readers that Jesus is their Messiah and king.

After Christ's Death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Saint Matthew is said to have preached the Gospel to the Hebrews for as many as 15 years (during which time he wrote his Gospel in Aramaic), before heading east to continue his efforts at evangelization. By tradition, he, like all of the apostles with the exception of Saint John the Evangelist, was martyred, but accounts of his martyrdom varied widely. All place it somewhere in the East, but, as the Catholic Encyclopedia notes, "it is not known whether he was burned, stoned, or beheaded."

We thank God for St. Matthew, apostle, evangelist, and martyr - faithful follower of Jesus!

NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1 – SUNDAY IN-PERSON WORSHIP SERVICES: And here we go again! As new restrictions came our way once again, we went back to having a limited attendance capacity - 1/3 of the fire code occupancy. We rarely reach 100 people attending, so I guess we are still OK. So far, no need to register if you plan to come. Social distance and face masks are mandatory again. If you choose not to come for in-person worship, you can still be with us online with our live streaming of services on Zoom. The third option is to watch the whole service later at our website. So there's many ways to stay connected with us and in fellowship with the Lord.

Communion practices remain the same for both services: you bring your cup and plate to church. You remain seated in your place. Pastor and assistant will come to you in the pews to serve you with bread and wine. You hold on to these elements until pastor returns to the altar and then invites all to take the



sacrament together, as a family. Communion services are on the first and the third Sundays. There is still no offering plate passing around: you are invited to bring your offering and place it in the back of the church as you walk out. We will continue to sanitize the high touched surfaces between the services. I will love to see you at church!

2– NEW BIBLE STUDY: After seeking the opinion of our board members, we have decided to continue the online Bible studies **every Wednesday**, except when there is a fifth Wednesday. Siegrid Robak has volunteered to help by holding two studies every month. Exciting news: We will start a series of studies on **the Augsburg Confession** as of October 6. Don't miss it!

Elizabeth is planning to lead a monthly Bible study, mostly with a movie watching and discussion afterwards. This will take place on the last Saturday of the month starting on January 29. We will be sending invitations for those events prior to the dates.

3 – ONLINE YOUTH BIBLE STUDY will take place BI-WEEKLY (every other Tuesday) at 7 p.m. Elizabeth will send out the invites for the login.

4 – CONFIRMATION CLASSES: For this year we have four kids starting their confirmation classes so far: Salma Herchen, Melissa Zeuch, Emilie Pfeifer (non-member) and John Pfeifer (non-member). We have two teachers: Mrs Koreen Graumann and Mrs. Heather Graham-Navis who will be teaching the weekly online lessons. Big thank you for these two ladies for volunteering for this important Christian education project! May God bless both teachers and confirmands (and their families).

5 – WEBINAR: Lutheran Foundation Canada (Allen Schellenberg) has offered to present a **one-hour webinar entitled, “Christian Estate Planning Basics” on Saturday, October 16th, at 10:00 am.** A recent webinar attendee had this to say about the webinar:-

“The Foundation’s webinar on Christian Estate Planning Basics has certainly helped me prepare my own estate plan, as well as others in my family. This webinar covers documents that apply to young or old, parent or adult children, executors and care-givers. I would recommend this webinar to anyone.” – Rev. Tom Kruesel (Bethany-Campbell River)

This webinar is primarily for St. Matthew’s members, although you are encouraged to invite other family members who might benefit from such a webinar, by forwarding this email. The webinar is designed to provide a broad overview of the various aspects of an overall estate plan, beyond just having a Will. All you need is a computer, iPad, or iPhone connected to the internet (no camera needed), as the webinar only shows PowerPoint slides and a small inset image of Allen talking.

Please select the link below to register for Christian Estate Planning Basics – St. Matthew Lutheran - Calgary, AB on Oct 16, 2021 10:00 AM MDT at:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4340629332199335695>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing a link to the webinar itself.

6 – MEMBER CALLED TO GLORY: It is with sadness that we announce that Eva Waiand, a long time member of our German congregation has been called to glory on last September 17. She was 95 years old and we rejoice with the fact that she died in her faith in Christ. A private graveside service will take place on Sept 23 (Thurs) at Queen’s Park Cemetery. Please pray for the family. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted." Matthew 5:4

7 – KUDOS BOARD (or “KUDOS KORNER”) – At our last board meeting we have decided to start a ‘Kudos Korner’ in our bulletins. I had already a section with individual “than-you’s” in the past editions. This will be a way to continue to thank people during the year for various task done around the church and for each other. We do it for God’s honour and glory, not our own. The apostle Paul thanked the saints especially the Colossians, the Philippians and also the Corinthians for their help, support, faithful service, gifts and prayers. So here are a few names we want to thank in this edition:

John Dalmoro – year-round help taking canned goods to the Bridgeland Women’s Centre.

Siegrid Robak and Koreen Graumann – calling members.

Betty Altenhof – sending cards

The altar guild – for the weekly care of our sanctuary

The youth who are acolytes and help during services.

Irene and Elfriede Zippel, Sherry Luft, Ingrid Anderson, Randy Haynes, Ryan Steward, Dana Salter, Axel and Leslie Heinz for the flowerbeds, vegetable garden, mowing the lawn, garden work in general.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace. 1 Peter 10

8 – WE NEED HELP! OPEN POSITIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE: In case you wonder what are the needs of your congregation and how you could use your talents to serve better, here are the open positions we have currently:

- a) Vice-Chairman;
- b) Elder;
- c) Head elder;
- d) Ushers
- e) Counters
- f) Readers
- g) Christian Stewardship;
- h) Ambassador for the Lutheran Hour/LLL;
- i) Helping out with the board of evangelism
- j) Someone to help with technology: posting services online etc.
- k) Helping with the phone call ministry

Open positions coming up in the near future: a) Treasurer b) PPC Secretary

Please consider prayerfully if you can commit to one of these noble tasks of serving the Lord!

WHAT IS THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM ALL ABOUT? (Please join us!)

CURRENT BOARD OBJECTIVES

1. Staying connected with our members who are now staying home due to the Covid restrictions by sending cards.
2. Making phone calls.
3. Prayer Chain – ‘Prayer Warriors’ keeping the needs and petitions of our communicant members in prayer.
4. Sending out Lutheran publications such as *Portals of Prayer and German publications* to shut-ins.
5. Sending birthday cards, baptism cards from *Enduring Faith* nursery packets to newborn to age 10.
6. Working closely with the Pastor of our congregation to keep the evangelism focus and goals met.

Our goals after we can return to normal:

- Create a ministry for the needs of our Seniors.
- Visit homebound.
- Having ladies’ tea and devotions.
- Looking into working with Lutheran Women’s Missionary League (LWML).

Currently the board needs volunteers for calling and being on the Prayer Chain. Please prayerfully consider joining this team!

In Christ, Lorraine Duncan, Chairman of Evangelism

“Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.” Rms. 12:12-13

9 – WHAT IS PLANNED FOR THE NEXT DAYS?

Sept 23 (Thurs): Graveside Service for Eva Waiand @ Queens Park cemetery 2 pm

Sept 23 (Thurs): Online confirmation class

Sept 26 (Sun): German worship service @ 9:30 a.m./ English worship @ 11 a.m.

Sept 28 (Tues): Online Youth Bible Study

Oct 2 (Sat): Memorial service for Lily Krueger @ 1 p.m.
 Oct 3 (Sun): German worship service with Holy Communion @ 9:30 a.m. / English worship service with Holy Communion @ 11 a.m.
 Oct 6 (Tues): Online Bible Study: The Augsburg Confession (pastor) @ 7 p.m.
 Oct 7 (Thurs): Online confirmation class
 Oct 7 (Thurs): Board of elders' meeting on Zoom 7 p.m.
 Oct 10 (Sun): German worship service @ 9:30 a.m./ English worship @ 11 a.m.
 Oct 12 (Tues): Pastor leads worship service @ Bethany Riverview
 Oct 12 (Tues): Online Youth Bible Study
 Oct 13 (Wed): Pastor leads worship service @ Rocky Ridge Retirement Home
 Oct 14 (Thurs): Online confirmation class
 Oct 16 (Sat): Webinar (Christian Estates Planning Basics) @ 10 a.m.

10 - NAMES OF UPCOMING SUNDAYS, CELEBRATIONS, FEASTS & FESTIVALS

Sept 22 – Fall Equinox / Jonah
 Sept 26 – Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Sept 29 – St. Michael and All Angels
 Sept 30 – Jerome, Translator of Holy Scripture
 Oct 3 - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
 Oct 7 – Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, Pastor
 Oct 9 – Abraham
 Oct 10 - Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
 Oct 11 – Philip the Deacon / Thanksgiving Day
 Oct 17 – Twenty-First Sunday a. Pentecost/ Ignatius of Antioch, Pastor and Martyr

GEISTLICHE LIEDER AUF DEUTSCH

Melodien der Freude

Diese Schallplatte hatten meine Eltern und wir haben es immer gehoert, ganz besonders am Sonntag.

Wunderschoene instrumentale Lieder.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AXLUYWPvnUg>





And now, our giggle for the week: jokes and puns



Thank you for taking your time to read my newsletter. May God's peace fill your days ahead. Have a blessed Fall season!

In His service,

Rev. Markus Zeuch

Ph: (403) 837-4600

Visit our website: www.stmatthewlutheranalgary.com

Follow us on Facebook and YouTube!

THE STAFF OF ST. MATTHEW

Organist/Pianist: Johnson Philip

Cantor: Dana Salter

Youth Leaders: Elizabeth Schieman & Emilie Graumann

Secretary: Andrea Sovary (403) 266-1458

Chairman: Peter Graumann (403) 275-2166

Head Elder: vacant

Church Office hours are 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M. Monday-Thursday